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Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 FEA-02 SS-20 DRC-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /119 W
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P 240800Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9472
INFO AEC GERMANTOWN MD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE INTEREST IN HTGR

REF: STATE 010739

1. AS SUGGESTED AEC SCIREP HAS ADVISED EPDC OF SUBSTANCE OF FIRST SENTENCE PARA FOUR OF REFTELEX. EPDC REPRESENTATIVES RAISED QUESTION OF WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE AS REPRESENTING FULL SUPPORT OF GOJ FOR THEIR FORMAL REQUEST FOR ENRICHING CONTRACT. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION THREE POSSIBLE APPROACHES WERE RAISED AS FOLLOWS: A) SUBMISSION OF LETTER FROM RESPONSIBLE MITI OFFICIAL (SUCH AS DIRECTOR,
PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT OR HIGHER) TO USAEC ADVISING THAT GOJ FY 1974 BUDGET SUBMISSION CONTAINED FUNDS FOR EPDC REACTOR PROJECT, INCLUDING FIRST INSTALLMENT OF DOWN PAYMENT ON ENRICHING SERVICES CONTRACT, AND REQUESTING AEC COOPERATION WITH EPDC IN NEGOTIATING CONTRACT; B) SUBMISSION OF AUTHORIZED PERSON LETTER WHICH IS PROVIDED FOR ALL ENRICHMENT SERVICES CONTRACTS. IF THIS ROUTE FOLLOWED, WOULD STANDARD AUTHORIZED PERSON LETTER BE ACCEPTABLE OR WOULD IT HAVE TO SPECIFY THAT CONTRACT WOULD BE HIGHLY ENRICHED MATERIAL, AND C) SUBMISSION TO AEC OF COPY OF EPDC'S ANNUAL DETAILED WORK STATEMENT APPROVED BY MITI WHICH WOULD IDENTIFY 300 MILLION YEN FOR ENRICHING SERVICES CONTRACT--NOT KNOWN IF WORK STATEMENT WOULD SPE-
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CIFICALLY RELATE ENRICHING SERVICES TO HTGR OR TO HIGHLY ENRICHED

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MATERIAL.

2. EPDC WOULD LIKE HAVE AEC COMMENTS RE ACCEPTABILITY OF EACH OF ABOVE APPROACHES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THEY CAN INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH MITI TO DETERMINE WHICH OF ACCEPTABLE APPROACHES WOULD BE FAVORDED BY GOJ.

3. RE QUESTION ON TIMING OF CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED NEED FOR ENRICHING SERVICES, EPDC PROCEEDING ON SCHEDULE WHICH CALLS FOR OBTAINING SITE APPROVAL IN EARLY 1975, GOVERNMENT SAFETY REIVEW IN 1976 AND 1977, START OF CONSTRUCTION IN 1977 AND COMMERCIAL OPERATION IN 1983. ON THIS BASIS ENRICHING SERVICES WOULD BE REQUIRED PRIOR JULY 1, 1982.
WHILE SCHEDULE APPEARS OPTIMISTIC, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS OBTAINING SITE APPROVAL IN LIGHT OF PRIOR EXPERIENCE THIS AREA, IT CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS UNREASONABLE ESPECIALLY SINCE GOJ SERIOUSLY ATTEMPTING FIND WAYS TO ACCELERATE APPROVAL AND CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. INCLUSION OF ENRICHING SERVICES FUNDS IN GOJ FY 1974 BUDGET IS EVIDENCE THAT GOJ RECOGNIZES EPDC SCHEDULE PLANS AND IS TAKING ACTIONS CONSISTENT WITH THAT SCHEDULE. PRESUMPTION, AT THIS TIME, BY USAEC THAT SCHEDULE NOT POSSIBLE WITH ASSOCIATED REFUSAL PROVIDE ENRICHING SERVICES CONTRACT WOULD PUT USAEC IN POSITION OF HAVING CAUSED SCHEDULE SLIPPAGE SINCE THIS WOULD BE FIRST EVENT NOT PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO THAT SCHEDULE.

4. RE QUESTION OF JAPCO VERSUS EPDC, IT IS EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL THERE WILL BE POSITIVE DECISION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ON THIS ISSUE PRIOR JUNE 30, 1974 CONTRACTING DEADLINE. LIKELY, ISSUE WILL JUST BE IGNORED WITH EPDC PROCEEDING WITH ITS HTGR PLANS AND JAPCO CONTINUING WITH TOKAI-2 CONSTRUCTION AND CONTINUING EXPRESS HTGR INTEREST BUT TAKING NO POSITIVE ACTIONS. THERE ARE EVEN RUMORS THAT JAPCO WILL BE PRESSED INTO BUILDING ANOTHER LWR AT TSURUGA TO PROVIDE SOME RELIEF FOR KANSAI EPDCO'S PROJECTED POWER SHORTAGE CAUSED BY THEIR SITING DILEMMA. IF THIS WERE TO HAPPEN, IT WOULD FURTHER DELAY JAPCO'S ENTRY INTO HTGR FIELD.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: URANIUM, SUPPLIES, NUCLEAR ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TRANSFER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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